



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

V

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/637,973	08/08/2003	Kenneth E. DeLine	VMA-LockingHangUSNProv	4109
39208	7590	06/16/2005	EXAMINER	
CR MILES, P.C. 1 OLD TOWN SQUARE, SUITE 200 B FORT COLLINS, CO 80524			SZUMNY, JONATHON A	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		3632		
DATE MAILED: 06/16/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/637,973	DELINE, KENNETH E.
	Examiner Jon A. Szumny	Art Unit 3632

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 March 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 69-72 and 79-85 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 69-71, 79-81, 82/80, 84 and 85 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 72, 82/81 and 83 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 17 December 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

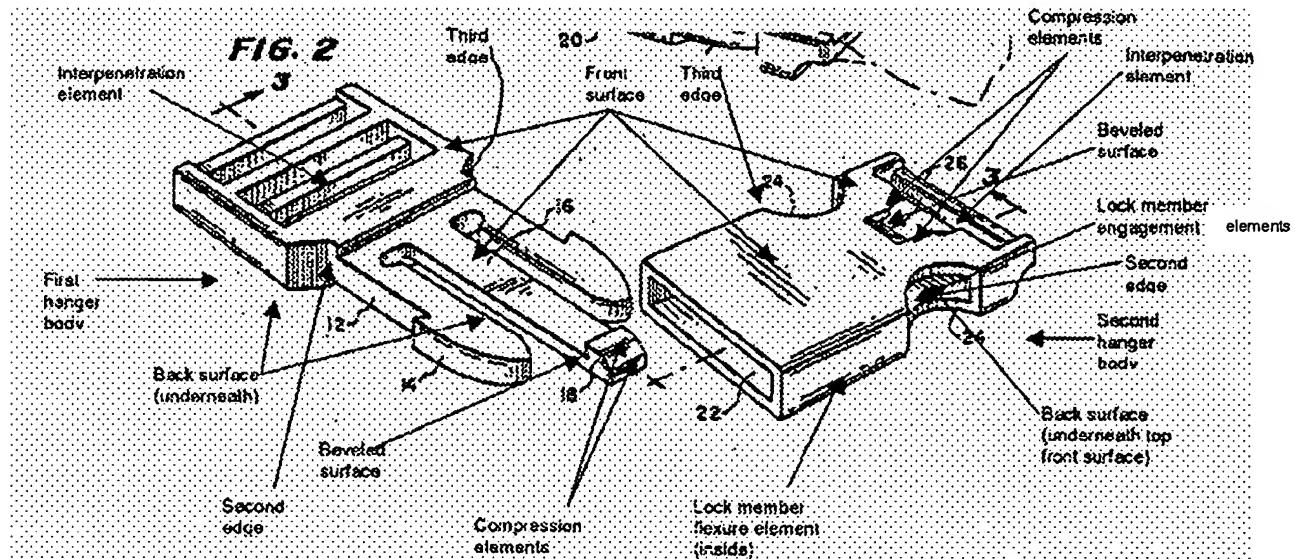
1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

This is the second office action for application number 10/637,973, Self-Interlocking Hanger System, filed on August 8, 2003.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 69-71, 79-81, 82/80, 84 and 85 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent number 4,825,515 to Wolterstorff, Jr.



Wolterstorff, Jr. '515 discloses a hanger (above) comprising a first hanger body (above) having a front surface and a back surface (above) that terminate in a first edge having a beveled surface (above), a pair of lock members (12, both sides

of hanger body) which extend from opposing sides of the first hanger body; a second hanger body (above) having a front surface and a back surface which terminate in an edge having a beveled surface (above), wherein the beveled surface of the first hanger body and said beveled surface of the second hanger body are configured to engage in opposed mated relation, wherein a pair of lock member engagement elements (above, both sides of second hanger body) are coupled to the second hanger body and each having a surface configured to engage a corresponding one each of the pair of lock members to establish locked securement of the first hanger body to the second hanger body in opposed mated relation, wherein the pair of lock members comprise a pair of resiliently flexible projections each of which terminates in a catch element (14), wherein each of the lock member engagement elements further comprises a lock member flexure element (above) each of which slidably engages a corresponding one each catch element to generate flexure of the pair of resiliently flexible projections sufficient to allow each catch element to engage a pair of catch element engagement surfaces; wherein the hanger further comprises a compression element (above, inherently, this element could be involved in the compression of some item/object) which projects from the beveled surface of the first hanger

body, and a compression element (above, inherently, this element could be involved in the compression of some item/object) which projects from the beveled surface of the second hanger body, wherein the compression element which projects from the beveled surface of the first hanger body and the compression element which projects from the beveled surface of said second hanger body each comprise a single continuous compression element which projects from each beveled surface, wherein the compression element which projects from the beveled surface of the first hanger body and the compression element which projects from the beveled surface of the second hanger body each comprise a pair of compression elements (above) which project from each beveled surface, wherein each of the continuous compression elements further comprise an inclined surface (inherently, it is inclined relative to some reference point) which intersects each beveled surface, wherein an interpenetration element (above, inherently, each could be interpenetrated by some object/item) is between the front surface and back surface of each of the first and second hanger bodies.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 72, 82/81 and 83 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Reasons for allowance for claims 72, 82/81 and 83 can be found in a previous office action.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed March 31, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant contends that Wolterstorff, Jr. '515 does not teach a *pair* of lock members and a *pair* of lock member engagement elements. The Examiner disagrees. As shown and described above, Wolterstorff, Jr. '515 does in fact teach such features.

Conclusion

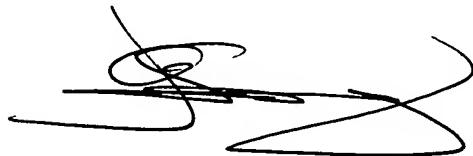
THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jon A Szumny whose telephone number is (571) 272-6824. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8-4.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application and proceeding are assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-3600.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Szumny". The signature is somewhat stylized and includes a small circle at the top left.

Jon Szumny
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 3600
Art Unit 3632
June 11, 2005